

QADHAFI MU'AMMAR

LIBYA (1)

3.3(h)(2)

• ROUTINE

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## Intelligence Information Cable

PAGE 1 OF 5 PAGES

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DIST 2 DECEMBER 1969

TRY: LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC/UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

CR/N

SUBJECT: DISSATISFACTION OF LIBYAN STUDENTS WITH ATTITUDE OF  
REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL TOWARDS STUDENT  
COMMUNITY AND PRESS AND WITH PRO-EGYPTIAN POLICIES  
OF GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY. STUDENTS IN BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI ARE

DISSATISFIED WITH THE ATTITUDE OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL  
(RCC) CHAIRMAN COLONEL (MU'AMMAR Q A D H A F I) TOWARDS THE  
STUDENT BODY AND PRESS, AND STUDENTS IN TRIPOLITANIA HAVE  
CIRCULATED LEAFLETS AGAINST THE PRO-UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (UAR)  
POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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IN 95960

PAGE 2 OF 5 PAGES

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE STUDENTS IN BENGHAZI REGARDED COLONEL QADHAFI'S SPEECH AT THE STUDENT RALLY IN BENGHAZI ON 6 NOVEMBER 1969 AS A FAILURE. THE STUDENTS OBJECTED TO QADHAFI'S TURNING ASIDE QUESTIONERS SEEKING APPROVAL FOR A STUDENTS UNION, TO HIS STATEMENTS THAT STUDENTS NEEDED NO MEDIATION AND SHOULD COME "DIRECT" TO THE RCC, AND TO HIS ADMONITION THAT THE STUDENTS SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THEIR STUDIES AND LET THE GOVERNMENT RUN THINGS. THE STUDENTS FOUND QADHAFI SUPERFICIAL IN HIS APPROACH AND RESENTED HIS EFFORTS TO JOKE ABOUT SERIOUS MATTERS. [REDACTED]

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IN 95960

PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES

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4. STUDENTS AT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS IN TRIPOLITANIA CIRCULATED TRACTS ON THE DATES GIVEN, EXPRESSING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE EGYPTIAN LEANINGS OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT:

TRIPOLI SECONDARY SCHOOL, 24 NOVEMBER

TRIPOLI GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, 25 NOVEMBER

GHARIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, 25 NOVEMBER, AND

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, LIBYA UNIVERSITY IN TRIPOLI,

26 NOVEMBER.

5. THE RCC SENT TWO RCC MEMBERS TO THE TRIPOLI SECONDARY SCHOOL ON 24 NOVEMBER TO CONFRONT THE STUDENTS ON THEIR OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES AND A HEATED ARGUMENT ENSUED. THE OFFICERS TRIED TO ASSURE THE STUDENTS THAT THE RCC INTENDS ONLY TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH THE UAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND IN "IDEOLOGY". THE STUDENTS REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE RCC OFFICERS AND PRESSED FOR LESS EVASIVE ANSWERS.

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EDITIONS

IN 95960

PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES

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7.

THE RCC OFFICERS WHO VISITED THE TRIPOLI SECONDARY SCHOOL BECAME IMPATIENT WHEN ONE OF THE STUDENTS ASKED WHY, IF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, WAS THE NEWSPAPER "AL-MAIDAN" CLOSED BECAUSE OF AN ARTICLE CRITICIZING PLANS FOR UNION WITH EGYPT. THE OFFICERS REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT COME TO "DISCUSS POLITICS". THE STUDENTS THEN RIDICULED THE OFFICERS, ASKING WHY THEY HAD COME IF NOT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THE OFFICERS REPLIED THAT THESE QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE ANSWERED BY RCC CHAIRMAN QADHAFI. THE STUDENTS THEN ASKED FOR CHAIRMAN QADHAFI TO COME AND TALK TO THEM.

8. RATHER THAN TALK WITH THE STUDENTS, QADHAFI DECIDED TO HOLD A DISCUSSION WITH THE TEACHERS AND THIS WAS DONE ON 28 NOVEMBER IN A TELEVISED PROGRAM. PUBLIC REACTION TO THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN INTENSE WITH A PREVAILING VIEW THAT QADHAFI "MADE A FOOL OF HIMSELF" IN TRYING TO COPE WITH THE ISSUES RAISED AND IN

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IN 95960

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PAGE 5 OF 5 PAGES

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HIS PERSONAL BEHAVIOR BEFORE THE CAMERAS.

[Redacted]

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